The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1917, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 9. NO. 49. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1920. WHOLE NO. 465.

TO VIGOROUSLY APPLY NON-PARTISAN POLICY

Washington, Feb. 28.—That a vigorous non-partisan political campaign may be waged by the trade union movement, all central bodies affiliated with the A. F. of L. are called upon to hold a meeting on March 22 next to appoint a committee of five to nominate the local non-partisan campaign in that locality.

The call is signed by Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and James O'Connell, executive committee of the Labor's Non-partisan political campaign committee, and is as follows:

"To Central Bodies:

"Dear Sirs and Brothers: — The American Federation of Labor, complying with the mandate of the Atlantic City convention, has launched labor's non-partisan political campaign. The movement has been welcomed with enthusiasm everywhere.

"We must make this campaign memorable. It must strain its every fiber to achieve success. Your organization has a place in the ranks; it has a responsibility to meet which must be met. To that end there might be nation-wide action at the earliest possible moment labor's national non-partisan campaign committee requests that every central body call a meeting to be held on March 22, 1920, at which a committee of five of your able and devoted members be elected, whose names and addresses to be written on the accompanying card and the same to be returned to us in the inclosed addressed envelope.

"Some literature already published by the national non-partisan campaign committee has been sent to all organized labor.

"Your committee will manage the local non-partisan political campaign in your city under the auspices of the national committee.

"Signed by a majority of the executive council and A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee."

EX-SOLDIERS SHOULD KNOW.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Government officials again urge every citizen to impress upon ex-service men that their life insurance, if lapsed, can be reinstated; that the provisions for reinstatement are liberal; that the term insurance may be converted during the war and which is known as war-risk or war-time insurance can not be carried longer than five years after the war and have been formally proclaimed by the president to be at an end; that the government has provided certain forms of permanent insurance, known as United States government life insurance, into which the wartime insurance may be converted.

Term insurance (war-time insurance), if it has lapsed, may be reinstated within six months from the date of the former insured man's discharge from the service and his application to the bureau of war risk insurance. The applicant is required to pay one month's premiums on the amount of insurance he desires to reinstate.

BIG BUSINESS SNARLS.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 28.—The plea for democracy that big business joined in one breath and then changed to anti-democracy snarls before the state constitutional convention when that body was considering the initiative and referendum.

Big business was out in force and was so open and arrogant that one local newspaper said:

"Big business with selfish interests to serve and funds in tremendous power against these principles.

"Giant corporate interests, powerful politically, representing the interests of all kinds which constitute the invisible government of Illinois—are massed solidly, represented and perhaps successfully spoken, in opposition to these things.

WAR TRAINING SUBSTITUTE.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Will those favoring universal compulsory military training who talk of physical development by athletics please read the report produced by Senator Capper of Kansas?

The measure would appropriate $16,000,000 for the physical education of children between the ages of 4 and 18.

"I believe universal physical education in the schools is better than the youth of the country most of the practical training of universal military training without the insidious undesirable accompaniments of compulsory military training," said Senator Capper.

STARTS RETAIL STORES.

Lawrence, Mass., Feb. 28.—The American Woolen company has declared war on the small retailer by inaugurating a system of retail stores in an effort to reduce the cost of living for its 15,000 employes.

It is stated that canned goods and other staples will be handled.

In 1919 the profit made on the product of $2,778,000, and in 1918 these profits were increased to the sum $12,000,000.

It is not stated whether the trust will handle clothing and sell it below the retail cost.

CARPENTERS' NEW RATES

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 28.—The organized carpenters of this district have put into operation the following rates which will be effective after July 1:

Journeymen, $1.25 an hour; foremen, $1.37½; work on towers, 50 feet high or more, $1.37½. First year for apprentices, 25 per cent of journeymen's rates; second year, 35 per cent; third year, 45 per cent; fourth year, 80 per cent.

FAVOR MILITARY TRAINING.

Washington, Feb. 28.—By a vote of 13 to 9 the house military committee declared for compulsory military training. Opponents of the principle are preparing to wage a vigorous fight when the army bill reaches the house and senate.

CHILDREN AT WORK.

Philadelphia, Feb. 28.—At a meeting of child welfare workers this week speaker stated that there are 2,000,000 children in the United States between the ages of 10 and 14 years who are employed in gainful occupations.

TEAMSTERS UNITE.

Nampa, Idaho, Feb. 28.—Teamsters at this place have been organized and affiliated with the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

DO PROFITEERS HIDE BEHIND RADICAL CRY?

Cincinnati, Feb. 28.—"No thinking American," says Editor Prey of the International Molders' Journal, "is deceived by the hue and cry against radicals when the press so furiously supported by the press since the attorney general began his campaign. If it was not for the serious questions involved, the situation would supply those elements of comic opera which keep us amused during idle momemnts.

"It is now over six months since the doughty attorney general, with a magnificent flare of trumpets, announced that he had girded on his armor and was about to overthrow old mab high cost of living. All of the department's resources were to be used for this general and successful onslaught. Additional assistance was to be secured in order to make the victory a certainty, and, after reams of precious paper had been consumed, the result is a committee of five of your able and devoted servants has been published, their names and addresses to be written on the accompanying card and the same to be returned to us in the inclosed addressed envelope.

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Return Railroads To Private Owners; Dollars, Not Men, Dictate

Washington, Feb. 28.—Congress has voted to return the railroads to private owners, over the protest of organized labor, farmers and other groups of citizens who have urged that these properties be held for at least five years, that a real test of government management may be made under normal conditions. The railroad workers asked the president to veto the bill.

The senate favored return by a vote of 47 to 17, and the house by 250 to 150.

The senate anti-strike section was eliminated, but in its place was inserted a provision that trade unionists declare by 100 majority their discipline and encourage employes to disregard existing agreements and long-established orderly methods of procedure.

This provision recognizes the right of any 100 employes to initiate a movement within any recognized class. It is shown that this may be accomplished by dividing the respective classes by 100 which would be approximately 20,000 groups of not less than 100 employes presenting requests on 160 certain lines, no two of the requests being the same.

The railroad employes say that the failure to designate agreements with the standard recognized organizations, representing about 95 per cent of all employes, can be construed as a determination to annul existing agreements and destroy the organizations which negotiated them.

The workers' fears are sustained by the New York Times, a recognized spokesman for big business, which frankly states that this section of the bill is intended to stop organization of railroad employes.

The bill also provides that where there is a little or no competition on the labor board, the arbitrator shall be chosen by and be a member of his organization, except insurance, pension or other benefit funds.

In their protest against this provision the employes declare that "Men in the organized labor movement, competent by their long years of experience and training, to deal with the questions evolving upon a board of the character contemplated, cannot be expected to relinquish the rights representing their life's work, to accept a position under the provisions above cited."

The bill guarantees labor against reduction of wages until September 1 next, but after that date, the railroad workers declare, "neither the insurance of the present guarantee safe guarded. On the other hand, the guaranteed minimum return of 5½ per cent, leaving both the public and labor at the mercy of capital after September 1, 1920.

"The returns to capital are fixed upon an arbitrary basis. The rate which the public must pay and which labor must receive must accommodate themselves to this basis fixed for capital. The act makes the public and labor subservient to capital."

It is then that heretofore competition was relied upon to keep rates down, and upon regulation to prevent rates becoming extortionate. It has also been held that the basis upon which compensation was to be received by the railroads was fixed by legislative standard. This theory is now abandoned.

"By the bill," declares the railroad employes, "the government which we have instituted for the common good, is prostituted for the establish the private interests of holders of railway securities as a class, giving to them a first lien upon the property of the country at the expense of all other citizens, investors, producers and consumers. This is an absolute negation of the principles of American government, an abandonment of the principle of the common good, the establishment by the government for private interest, special privileges and special benefits."

In their glee over the return of the railroads, these facts have been ignored by the public press and big business, as has the warning of the director general of railroads and Interstate Commerce Commissioner Woolley that a return of the railroads at this time means increased freight rates of 25 to 40 per cent followed by increased living costs to the people of at least $5,000,000,000 a year.

The railroad employes' opposition to the bill is answered by the charge that they are asking for special favors, and to this the employes reply:

"Railroad employes never have and do not now seek to be treated as a privileged class, but we ask and cannot but expect equitable treatment, and the continuance of our unalienable right to have an equal voice in representation, and vote in any tribunal created by law or national agreement which is to establish by its decisions the compensation we are to receive for our efforts and the working conditions under which our services must be rendered. One-tenth of the population of the United States is represented by the railway employes. We render the service on which the life of the whole subject of it. We have a dual interest to conserve; interest as citizens, and our interest as employes. Any measure that makes possible this essential service to citizens and railway employes, we protest against the adoption of the bill."

ALL A MATTER OF OIL.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—"At last we know why war with Mexico has been urged upon the people of the United States in an insidious persistency," says Editor Barry of the Star.

"It is for the protection of the great oil interests—presumably English as well as American.

"The admission is contained in a dispatch published in this issue page 21, and the pungent paragraph reads as follows:

"Other oil fields are the real bone of contention between the United States and Mexico, and if peace is established in oil it will mean peace in all respects with Mexico.

"It will be glad news to the mothers of America that their sons will not have to invade a sister republic and risk their lives 'in defense of' property which they have been taught to believe the possession of petroleum have made an agreement with President Carranza which the equitable treaty of several new wells immediately to be made between them.

"Let us lift up our hearts in thankfulness to the association of petroleum producers which has delivered us from this great trouble—a trouble which has caused so much oil, and buried our sorrows in the black pools of crude petroleum. Selah."

EMPLOYERS WANT PEACE

Pocatello, Idaho, Feb. 28.—The Employers' association here today refuses to be a party to an anti-union move.

In refusing to engage in this movement, the secretary of the Pocatello Employers' association says:

"There seems to be a misapprehension on the part of certain people as to the purposes of the Employers' association. It simply seeks to enact the fields that are constantly disturbed condition of industry as a condition. The endeavor will be to give calm, fair discussion and analysis to problems as they arise, whether they be disputes that exist between contractors and craftsmen, between employer and labor, using the ordinary designations."

LIVING COSTS GOING UP.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The average family budget has increased about 2 per cent for the month ending January 15, according to the federal department of labor. This is an increase of 9 per cent over January, 1919, and 104 per cent since January, 1913.

Comparisons of retail prices paid for 44 articles of food show that it had advanced since December 15, while 11 had decreased and four were unchanged.

Prices of cabbage increased 21 per cent, potatoes 20, onions 14, oranges 11, lamb 4, hens 7, flour 6, strictural lard nearly 5, chuck roast brought 4 each; round steak and raisins 3, rice 2, ham, evaporated milk, mackerel, bacon, tea, coffee and bananas 1.

BEWARE OF PUSSY FOOTERS.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Opponents of the eight-hour law resorted to efforts to jam a section law through congress, and they must be watched, according to labor men that have adopted pussy foot tactics.

The new program of the sedition law advocates is to claim that these provisions of the law are to be defeated, and then, when the people relax their vigilance, have the enabling sedition law all but repealed, and then, when the people forget it, have the law enacted. The enabling sedition law will be subject to the whim of some federal court will interpret it to the liking of those who would control liberty in America.

LAWYERS OPPOSE LAW.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 28.—Trade unionists who attended the state supreme court will be held a decision by the Cole county circuit court that the state workmen's compensation law is not subject to the referendum and that some federal court will interpret it to the liking of those who would control liberty in America.

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STATE UNIONISTS MEET.

Pocatello, Idaho, Feb. 28.—The fifth annual convention of the Idaho State Federation of Labor declared in the official bulletin of that organization to be "the largest and most enthusiastic gathering of the hosts of labor ever assembled in the state of Idaho."

FOUNDRY EMPLOYES GAIN.

Bellevill, Ill., Feb. 28.—Foundry employes have secured a new wage scale agreement with employers in this city. Rates are advanced to a 55-hour week basis for common labor. Classified workers will be increased to 60 cents an hour.

WANT $600 INCREASE.

Fresno, Cal., Feb. 28.—In a petition to the local board of education the public school teachers have asked an increase of $600 a year is necessary for them to meet living costs.

INDIANA LABOR PARTY ANSWERED

Washington, Feb. 28.—The non-partisan political policy of the trade union movement is wrong and the Indiana labor party is right, according to the aforesaid labor party, which has notified President Gompers to that effect.

The A. F. of L. executive replied as follows:

"By what right do you assume to declare the work and the policy of the American Federation of Labor to be impractical? Surely the results proved in the interests of the workers demonstrate the utter fallacy of your assumption.

"By your declaration you assert the practicability of the course you declare you will pursue. What experience have you had with your political party upon which to base the shrewd claim?

"Forsooth, some men understand but only that which is charged, but the virtue which is proclaimed of political financial honesty and dishonesty. Perhaps thorough investigation of political and financial virtue may be the subject of inquiry after a political party shall have been in existence more than a day.

"Of this one thing you may rest assured, that the day of reckoning is at hand for all of those who have in any manner, be it the cause of labor, and for those who are subtle and equally guilty, even though they clothe their actions with the robes of pretended friendship.

"When you shall have learned the lesson of the real struggle of labor and the cause for which our movement stands, you may become penitent for the gross injustice you have done to your profession and your course.

"The effect of a separate political labor party can have no benefit to the wage earners of our country and to the interests of all forward looking people. The votes that would go to a labor party candidate would, in the absence of such a candidate, go to the best man in the field. In no case would there go to an enemy of labor.

"There can be no hope for success of labor party candidates. The effect, therefore, of a political labor party will be to defeat our friends and to elect our enemies.

"Labor can look upon the formation of a political labor party only as an act detrimental to the interests of labor and exactly in line with that which is most greatly desired by those who seek to oppress labor.

"The welfare of American humanity demands in this hour of national crisis that there be answer at the polls. This is no time for experimenting with political theories which are proven false at the outset. The workers of America must be sure of success. They must have results.

"Results will not be obtained by injecting a labor party somewhere in the struggle.

"What labor requires is to be blind to the facts of the present and past will, of course, rush on to disaster. Labor must be the strong, labor movement will not do. It rests the destruction of labor with blind theorists and will have nothing to do with these treacherous follies that are worthy only of the support of labor's enemies.

"Your telegram is an affront to the labor movement and an assault upon the character of that great body of Americans who are the subject of the present campaign shall result, not in the destruction of our liberties, but in the opening of the way to natural progress and the enlargement of opportunities for human welfare, safety and happiness."

OPPOSE LABOR INJUNCTIONS.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 28.—The executive board of the Illinois state federation of labor has asked the state constitutional convention to include this labor section in the new constitution:

"Section 1. The labor of a human being is an attribute of life and is not property.

"Section 2. The right of workmen to organize in trade unions and local unions and to deal and speak through representatives chosen by themselves on any matter the subject of labor shall not be abridged.

"Section 3. No court, tribunal, judge nor any officer or official shall by any process, order, injunction, restraining order, decree or proclamation abridge the right of any workman to work or refuse to work either singly or in concert, nor the right by peaceable persuasion, picketing, assembly or the movement of strike benefits including others to quit or to refuse to work working, nor shall any such acts be held or deemed to be unlawful or to constitute an unlawful conspiracy. Nor shall any such process, order, decree or proclamation interfere with the exercise of the legitimate functions of any organization formed for the purpose of advancing the interests of those who labor."

CAN'T VISIT STRIKE ZONE.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Feb. 28.—On the ground that they are fostering the spirit of strife, the acting governor of this island has ordered Andrew McAndrew and Peter Brady from the strike and picket zone in which 50,000 sugar workers are demanding higher wages.

Messrs. McAndrew and Brady compose the A. F. of L. commission that is investigating the Porto Rican labor conditions. They demanded that the governor produce written evidence to justify his order, and declared that the governor personally informed the official that they did not propose to have their lawful movements interfered with and that they would not only visit the strike zone but they would encourage the strikers to stand firm in their fight for a living wage.

The two unionists recently addressed an open letter to the acting governor in which Porto Rico was referred to as "a living graveyard," and conditions there were compared with the pirates of years ago who ravaged the south seas.

BONDS TO RECLAIM LAND.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Reclamation of unused lands in the west and south through a series of bond issues to be guaranteed by the federal farm loan system, would be provided for by a bill introduced by Senator Fletcher of Florida. A similar proposal has been introduced in the house by Congressman Smith of Idaho.

The plan is that $20,000,000 worth of bonds will be sold the first year, $30,000,000 the second year, $40,000,000 the third and $50,000,000 the fourth year, with a total not exceeding $150,000,000.

TELEPHONE EARNINGS UP.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Telephone companies earned more last November than during the same month of any year before, according to figures issued by the interstate commerce commission. Net operating revenues of companies in November was $6,950,61, an increase of $1,000,000 over the net operating revenue in November, 1919.

Gross revenues for November totaled $29,236,000, an increase of $6,821,682 over the preceding November. Operating expenses aggregated $21,625,174, compared with $21,744,942 in November, 1919.

GIVES FATHER A PENSION.

Denver, Feb. 28.—A father compelled to take active charge of caring for his children is eligible for a pension, according to a decision of the supreme court. Judge Ben Lindsey of the juvenile court, a father of five children and the sole living parent was given the right to apply for relief under this law.

FINGER PRINTS ON CHECKS.

Washington, Feb. 28.—To minimize the forgery of navy pay checks the navy department has ordered that the indorser of every check must place the right section of the four fingers of his right hand on the back thereof before it will be cashed.

ALIENS GOING HOME.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The steamship Finland, Capt. Tuttle, sailed for foreign countries, particularly Russia, with 1,000 aliens, mostly Russians, on board. The United States bureau of immigration reports

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW IS PRUSSIAN IDEAL

Austin, Texas, Feb. 28.—"A Prussian ideal" is what Fred W. Davis, commissioner of agriculture, terms the anti-strike plan, in a letter to Congressman Blanton.

The Texas official protests against the action of state and federal farmers' organizations that have memorialized congress in favor of this kind of legislation. As a member of the executive board of one of these organizations he declares:

"Why should the farmers pull the chestnuts out of the coals for the sake of the fire? Certainly our farmers are more closely identified with labor than they are with capital.

"I hold no brief for either capital or labor. I am dealing entirely with an abstract principle of human rights wherever it contends labor has the right to strike. It further contends that farmers have no more right to abrogate the public's interests are paramount.

"The public must be protected from the evils that are compelled to work for the benefit of another, or all other classes, who is to be the next victim? This is the principle of the law in the only state of existence that has such a law.

"If this doctrine becomes established, not only will industrial workers be without protection but farmers will soon fall victims to the same principle. Texas will soon be compelled to sell the fruits of their toil, which represents their labor, to the highest bidder as do our fellow cities.

"The government has a right to prevent lawlessness among strikers, but it has a right to let people act individually and collectively who become a burden upon society because they refuse to work for a fair and living public work if they are unwilling to be private work. The farmers have a right to make a section hand work for wages he doesn't consider fair. The railroad worker has a right so long as the section hand doesn't become a burden upon the public, than it has to take the millionaire's son and make him work for wages which he thinks are unfair and insufficient for cigarette money. The right principle will arrive when labor undertakes to make one class work for another class."

TIMBER WORKERS MEET.

Spokane, Feb. 28.—The International Union of Timber Workers will hold its annual convention in this city beginning March 1. This organization reports an increase in membership of 100 per cent during the past year, despite every effort to disrupt the union and to block its growth. One of these methods was the establishment of a company union. A bill introduced by several legion of loggers and lumbermen to have the company union outlawed in the state legislature was killed in the house committee. Members of organized labor will rise to their feet and shout 'Here!'"

70 AND GOING STRONG.

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—The Star, published in this city, says:

"Secretary Lane passed the 70 mile post, and without stopping to take breath, takes a hitch in his belt, laughs at those who would relegate him to the supersnuated list, and goes on his way with his own estimation; and we all know that he is as old as he feels, so Samuel Gompers is 40 in our 'Who's Who.'"

COLORED MEN STRIKE.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Nearly 200 colored bag carriers, affiliated with the local trades assembly, suspended work to raise wages from $15 to $6 for an eight-hour day.

BOOKBINDERS STRIKE.

Edmonton, Alberta, Feb. 28.—Four months organized bookbinders have struck for an increase in wages and a 44 hour week.

WANT $1.25 AN HOUR.

Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 28.—The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has a new scale which calls for $1.25 an hour, effective April 1.

WOMEN WAGE EARNERS.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—More than 11,000,000 women in the United States are employed as wage earners, according to a report submitted to the vocational education convention.

BAKERS WANT MORE.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 28.—Bakers' local No. 3 has presented a new wage scale, based on increased living costs.

FALLACY OF PIECE WORK.

London, England, Feb. 28.—The labor correspondent of Reynolds's Newspaper, presents the views of a leading opponent of the piece work system:

"In theory piecework and payment by results are quite admirable systems, in practice, however, they fall far short of their promises. Sometime the 'job' is fixed, and a bonus offered on 'jobs' completed under the time limit. In this case the worker promises to draw high wages in his tendency to cut time and price down commences, until they fall below a reasonable minimum of which the trade unionist is aware. It is the application of the system by unscrupulous employers that has caused the unions to fight the question of payment by results and similar systems.

"Another factor which has carried great weight with the workers in their fight for a standardized wage is that the bonus system means that, as a physical and mental wreck or a living wage, the weakest employee is forced to the wall, the fact that in practically every industry there has been reabsorbed a number of men driven by the war who must be safeguarded, has the tendency to increase the determination of the unions to resist the employers' attempt to force an issue on the question before the standardization of wages, annual leaves and other outstanding questions."

"PURE AMERICANISM."

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 28.—In opposing the trade union non-partisan political policy, the Commercial-Appeal says in its issue of yesterday and the Labor Review asks:

"What is this stuff called 'pure Americanism?' From what fount may it be procured? Or perhaps it is manufactured at home. Who originated it and who can tell the genuine from the spurious?

"Of course, labor has its own idea of Americanism, and we believe it will pass muster with such Americans as Jefferson or Lincoln, having a definite knowledge of the meaning of these men. But, if Americanism means government by injunction, wholesale raiding of so-called original meetings, slavery for federal employees, espionage with no checks, 2,000 per cent profit for coal mine owners, persecution of labor leaders, child labor, denial of seats in legislatures to duly elected representatives of a political party, anti-strike laws, suppression of free speech and free press, sedition laws and other common practices too numerous to mention—if that is the Commercial-Appeal's conception of Americanism, and that is the sort of Americanism which is practiced by the A. F. of L. and all its members are un-American—and proud of it."

SABOTAGERS ESCAPE.

Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 28.—The government has dismissed all the charges of sabotage against Wilbur Cash, Oliver and 15 others who are connected with a large organization of miners and who were accused of making defective ammunition during the war. The government took this action after Federal Judge McCall instructed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty on the charges of fraud.

Oliver is the antagonist of organized labor, and his friends claim that this "poor man is the victim of frame ups by the terrible labor agitators. The unionmade suggestion of law has a better chance to prove this charge rather than have his getaway on a technicality.

WHY UNIONISTS LAUGH.

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 28.—Trade unionists are laughing at this remarkable declaration by anti-trade union real estate men:

"Resolved, That the proprietor of each office, upon hiring any salesman, inform him immediately that he must become a member of the Realtors' board, and that said proprietor immediately make application to said Maricopa county real estate board for application of said salesman. Also, that said proprietor shall discharge any salesman and that said proprietor shall refuse to deal with salesman accordingly, and that each member of the board pay the same fee for affiliation."

HUGE LEATHER PROFITS.

New York, Feb. 28.—One reason for the high cost of shoes might be found in the annual report of the United Leather company, which shows a clear profit of $17,000,000 for the previous year. This is exclusive of all dividends paid or payment on preferred dividends. The total profit was $9,394,670.

In the report states that one factor in the continued prosperous business of this concern will be "a concentrated effort on the part of labor to increase efficiency and production."

TELEPHONE GIRLS QUIT.

New York, Feb. 28.—Telephone girls in this city are demanding living wages, and several exchanges have walked out on account of strikes.

This situation has caused the telephone company to announce that it "has decided upon a readjustment of wages."

Adopting from its past record, the company is liable to change its mind. The girls are organizing.

WANT NON-UNION SHOP.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 28.—The Electric steel foundry has locked out its union iron molders.

The company assures these workmen that it will establish a shop that will not conduct its plant on a "closed shop" basis, or so-called "open shop" plan.

SHOE WORKERS LOCKED OUT.

Dallas, Texas, Feb. 28.—Members of the local shoe workers' union were locked out because they refuse to subscribe to a bosses' organization. The employers "believe in unions," but they must be the kind that the bosses O. K.

MANY WOMEN WAGE EARNERS.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—More than 11,000,000 women in the United States are employed as wage earners, according to a report submitted to the vocational education convention.

BAKERS WANT MORE.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 28.—Bakers' local No. 3 has presented a new wage scale, based on increased living costs.

FARMERS ARE NON-PAR

Washington, Feb. 28.—The American farmer will get into this fall's campaign on a non-partisan basis. This was decided at a meeting of farmers, as represented by the national board of farm organizations. A committee was appointed to be known as the executive committee. C. S. Barrett, president of the Farmers' National Grain Cooperative Union of America, is chairman of this committee. He said:

"The committee, if I understand the situation correctly, today, will demand a most comprehensive and unmistakable statement of the position of each party on the questions especially relating to agriculture, and the farmers will not allow to camouflage; moreover, the committee will try to determine before submitting its report to the farmers just what ability a candidate has to carry out the party platform promises. We must get behind a strong, faithful, long-visioned man. Now is the time."

BANKER IS NON-PARTISAN.

New York, Feb. 28.—Business men for efficiency in the conduct of politics, declared U. H. McCarter, president of the Fidelity Trust company, here today in an address before bankers in this city. According to the speaker business men and bankers, especially, "are not supposed to mix in politics."

"Right at this time a change. Business men should stand for business men and for efficiency in the conduct of business administration, and the prosperity of all the people may be threatened," he said.

OUST INJUNCTION JUDGES.

Los Angeles, Feb. 28.—Superior Judge Willis Ross was nominated democratic candidacy for the appellate bench of the district. The salary of the superior judge, $6,000 a year, is inadequate for my financial needs."

"That is the way he talked to the judge who issued an injunction against the striking ship yard workers last year, prohibiting them from 'picketing' the ship yards in the effort to secure a raise of more than $6 a day.

"The striking men and working women of southern California are true to themselves, they will defeat Judge Ross at the ballot box, as one place where he cannot enjoin them.

"When labor defeats a few of these gentlemen, the others will not be so ready to overthrow the constitutional rights of citizens who are compelled to fight for industrial justice."

BIG INJURY AWARD.

Camden, N. J., Feb. 28.—Probably the largest single verdict ever awarded in a New Jersey court in a personal injury case was returned upon by a jury in the Camden court, when $50,000 was awarded as compensation to be paid Dr. Walter S. Bray by two railroad companies, the Pennsylvania railroad and the West Jersey and Seashore railroad.

The jury believed both companies were equally guilty. Plaintiff's counsel had the right to choose either company from which to collect the damages.

WEEKLY AVERAGE IS $26.52.

New York, Feb. 28.—The state industrial commission explodes the fable of high wages in this state. For the week ending the twenty-first savings of over 600,000 factory workers, reported to the state commission, was $26.52 in January last.

The United States bureau of labor statistics has reported that the cost of living in the entire country has increased 14 per cent from 1913 to October, 1919.

The question now is: "How many of those 600,000 New York workers are buying automobiles or luxuries?"

MANY WORKERS PLACED.

Washington, Feb. 28.—More than 6,000,000 jobs were found for applicants by the United States employment service in the two years ended in January, according to Director General John A. Densmore, of the service.

The average cost of connecting the man and the job in each case was $2.42, the report said. During the period, 9,602,380 persons sought work through the service, while requests for workmen from employers numbered 13,331,036.

TAILORS RAISE WAGES.

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 28.—Custom tailors have accepted the new wage rate of Journeymen Tailors' union which calls for $40 a week and an eight-hour day.

REFERENDUM ON SUFFRAGE.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 28.—The state senate has voted to refer the equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution to a referendum vote of the state.

SHIP YARD WORKERS WIN.

Seattle, Feb. 28.—The Price Ship Building company has concluded to pay the union wage scale and nearly 256 striking employes have returned to work.